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New Jersey Lottery Pro Football Hall of Fame Promotion Winners Report that the Experience Was Phenomenal

Trenton (May 21, 2014) – The New Jersey Lottery Pro Football Hall of Fame **Powerball** promotion winners were overwhelmed by their up-close and personal experience at the Ultimate Tailgate Party and called it an event that created memories to last a lifetime. There were 10 New Jersey Lottery prizewinners and their guests who attended the all-expense paid event, held at the IX Center in Cleveland, Ohio on May 2, the evening prior to the two day Fan Festival. The event began with a football-themed random drawing at which 196 participants received \$1,000 each and 4 players won \$25,000 each. New Jersey's Julia Zanetti, was one of the fortunate \$25,000 winner's.

Later that evening, 100 Hall of Famers were introduced to the waiting crowd by descending the stairs of a 747 jet. Bill McGill, another New Jersey Lottery winner, described it like this, "Having the curtain rise and see a United 747 jet parked in front of you, and then to have the former great athletes deplane one by one while having their H.O.F. credentials read by Larry King was such a great touch. Afterwards, all the former athletes lined up in a row for a massive group photo. Simply breath-taking."



L-R Anthony Mangioni, Guest; Willie Brown, Hall of Famer (HOF); Peggy Rischawy, Guest; Richard Dent, HOF; Julia Zanetti, NJ \$25,000 Winner; Craig Garritano, Guest; Bruce Matthews, HOF.



Jetliner from which 100 Hall of Fame football players descended

After the kick-off event, winners from all 18 states partook in a giant Tailgate Party, dining at tables with fellow winners and a Hall of Fame athlete. The New Jersey Lottery winners dined at one of five tables and enjoyed the

company of one of the following Pro Football Hall of Famers: Shannon Sharpe, Jackie Smith, Willie Roaf, Jonathan Ogden, and Marcus Allen.

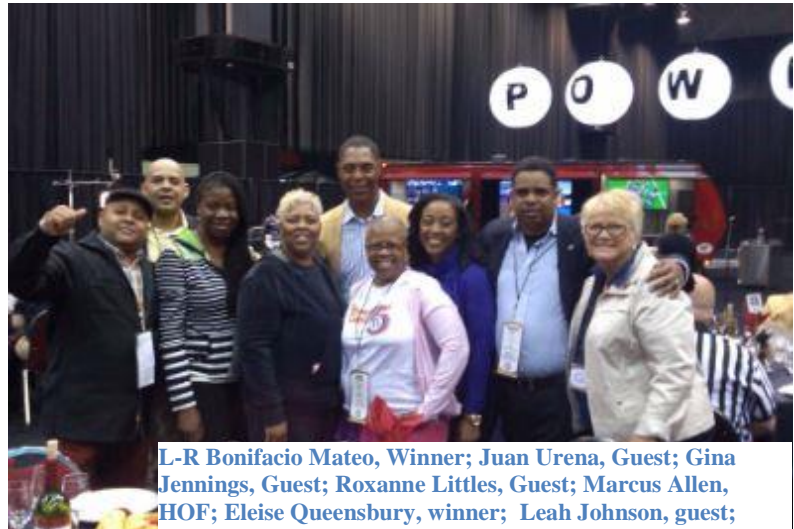
When asked about the dinner, McGirl said, “At our table was Willie Roaf of the New Orleans Saints. Willie was such a great guy to speak with and gracious a person to talk football. I think the waitress was getting tired of filling up our plates with ribs, brisket and BBQ chicken, not to mention what was consumed to quench our thirst. It was all so tasty.”

Carole Hedinger, New Jersey Lottery Executive Director, joined in the fun, as she received hugs and gratitude from the New Jersey winners. Bonifacio Mateo from Passaic County said, “It was a great experience. I couldn’t believe it when I saw Carole Hedinger. I didn’t expect to see her. I gave her a big hug!”

The feeling of gratitude and excitement was unanimous among the New Jersey winners. They were thrilled with their experience and grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“OMG it was phenomenal,” said Eleise Queensbury. “It was more than expected. I need a vacation from this vacation. I wish could do this every year and have the Lottery pay for it!”

Suzanne Matysik, from Sayreville, another New Jersey Lottery winner, said that she had one goal in mind for this trip - she wanted to meet Joe Namath. To ensure that she would be able to do so, she had to come up with a hook to get his attention. She went online and ordered a shirt that read, “I’m only here for Namath.” When she got to the stadium, Joe Namath’s public relations representative spotted Suzanne and her shirt. Yes, New Jersey Lottery really does make dreams come true, as Suzanne will attest.



L-R Bonifacio Mateo, Winner; Juan Urena, Guest; Gina Jennings, Guest; Roxanne Littles, Guest; Marcus Allen, HOF; Eleise Queensbury, winner; Leah Johnson, guest; Diomedes Minaya, Guest; Carole Hedinger, NJ Lottery Executive Director



Suzanne Matysik, Joe Namath

The fun continued with tournament style games played with Hall of Famers. There were three Hall of Fame members at each game station that included darts, pool and mini-golf.



Terry Bradshaw flanked by fans as he tries his hand at darts

The Fan Festival itinerary was full of games and activities. For more New Jersey Lottery participant stories, photographs and video, go to the Lottery Facebook page at: (<https://www.facebook.com/NewJerseyLottery>) And for photographs visit the Gallery of Dreams on the Lottery website (NJLottery.net)

To participate in upcoming Bonus Events and Drawings, sign up to be a member of the Lottery VIP Club on the website. It's free.

ABOUT THE LOTTERY

Since its inception in 1970, the New Jersey Lottery (NJLottery.net) has contributed more than \$22 billion to the State in support of education and institutions. In fiscal year 2013 the Lottery's contribution was more than \$1 billion. Among its beneficiaries are: veterans homes, community and other colleges and universities, school nutrition programs, homes for the developmentally disabled, psychiatric hospitals, higher education scholarship programs and the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf.

The lottery also plays a key role in supporting small businesses throughout the state with approximately 6,600 Lottery retailers. In fiscal year 2013, the Lottery retailers earned more than \$157 million in commissions supporting convenience stores and other establishments throughout the state. Every day, the Lottery helps to make winners by: providing entertainment and winning jackpots for lottery players; supporting the business community that serves as Lottery retailers and generating financial support for vital programs and organizations in our State.

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